

MODERN HOMER.

ROSCOE COTTELL'S MAGNIFICENT MIND.

THE SIX YEARS' WAR OF THE RADICALS.

IN BLANK VERSE—VERY BLANK INDEED!

You have—or ought to have—my grateful acknowledgments. Honors as great as you to me have done were a laurel crown. Of a grand cause I sing, a glorious party. The noblest since free government began! Born of the emergencies of a portentous hour, But ten times have the leaves of autumn fallen Since first its banner on the outer walls Was to the breeze unfurled. And behold Its mission and achievement! No policy Its aim, no platform to invent. On no An older creed than government itself Inspired it. With liberty, and progress, And humanity itself, full fledged Into the world it came, even as Minerva From the brain of Jove, all armed and blazoned. Accidentally it gained many votes; Majestically—how won, why careth you? It became the test, election triumphs follow. Success is opportunity, and the golden flow The party rode upon. Six years of history Attest its genius for administration and the command Of human nature, which is always found Upon the side of the majority. Six years Of life it has—no more—and yet An infant Hercules it stands to-day In strength (no more than infant Mercury In adaptation to the stealing art) Which raised its young pickpocket Into Godship. Our new baby found A lost republic, bankrupt treasury, An unarmed army, and a navy scattered By a relentless host of democratic Tendencies and proclivities occasional. Within the council halls as traitors, A dupes of traitors filled the chair of State; Full bail the continent was in revolt. War restoration possible? No! No! cried out Our party's enemies, and throne And dominations from star school The cry. And so said Christendom. But, with brazen front, moved on, Though in the rear weak and obstructed. Our cry was "Yes," and we have made it "Yes." Impossibilities we trampled down. Efficiency In all the branches of the government restored, Liberty "institutional" again replaced. Our golden throne within the walls Of a plebeian treasury, we battered down The gates that stood between us and A patriotic past. Victory soon perched Upon our eagle and high eagle, not to say Anything about the quarter eagle. Contrasts The flag behind us, as the noble Spartans Did in their shield. We do not boast of honors Thus to us today. Enough—we saw the light, And—no more to be said—we saw the light. Four million shillings on four million men. Choked to more. From the rocky Orient, Where Aurora's rosy fingers under the dawn, To where Apollo's horses go to sleep within the folds Of gold and violet clouds, there is no slave. No master, save the party called the radical. But had there been no other opposition than The trifling ones of treason in the South, the unity Of foreign powers, then the eye of prophecy could Have seen the nation's progress material and Ideal; but where a million battles failed One battle changed a policy and saved A dynasty. Sharper than Shylock's knife That bullet which was given Achilles Johnson For our ruler. Perfidious Achilles! "Oh, for a tongue!" All Hades for a word to blight the unpeached, Whose reason, like a deadly blight, came o'er The counsel of the radicals to blast Them in their hour of might. How just for the great-grandmotherly logic! How come it that The Atlantic cable, and the magnetic Spark the ocean's billows cannot cross, While one small bit of solid steel (in value Not ten dollars) could thus paralyze? The world's electricity? I have said "We" can't, "we" can't, "we" conquer. Who are "we"? The people! No, the radicals; and now Have we no right to see, triumphant as we are, That the red eye of battle shall not be closed For ever? And by this phrase I no allusion make To that "red eye" in face and frown so fatal As whiskey, commissaries known—familiar title In the camp and field. Voices have had such As Briton for a hundred years and sixty would have brooked.

For less than these have crossed harried men of Britain Cropped off the head of Charles, and left poor James Without a throne to sit on. We see the greatest Soldier of his age—I name him not, but leave you To suggest which of the five proconsuls I allude to—Treason in the camp and field, though not dead In the State prison, strikes the ranks on either. We see, O horror! treason the ranks on either, by proclamation, in the night gown of Oglethorpe. What France was mad. "The State! I am the State." And that, you know, is usurpation. It means That Johnson and his creatures have assumed Prerogatives forbidden, and will dare to go As far as the elections will permit them. It is not as the Executive, Unchecked, untied, should roam at will. Then let the bit and snaffle by Congress be applied To hold the unruly animal in check. Not to usurp His powers, nor crutch like weak legs on his paws. For that is all unworthy of great men. But by some higher, sterner method In his power to subjection. Let a grand inquest Bring him to account, submit his errors to the Judgment of mankind, and consign him To infamy, immortal as our cause! With him Must rise or fall our adversaries; with him Are they excluded. They bear his shield and armor, And every traitor in the land is but a spoke In the wheel of Andy Johnson, whereby The traitor may swing round another circle. Our country needs repose. We can secure it. Our action in the past gives pledges for the future. Like Polonius upon Ophelia, let the taxes on the poor; And labor grows in agony of high prices. Retrenchment and reform—a conscientious motto—Upon our banners is inscribed. All needless conflicts, Stupid controversies we aside, and with the reins Of power in our hands, or—more softly spoken—The triumph of right with us. And the great Commonwealth will tower Above all Christendom. The clouds of smoke Will vanish from the fair face Of our distracted Union, and the crown Of immortality, like angel's robes, Shall be the inheritance of brave Illinois!

CITY POLITICS.

Philosophical study of the Local Political Situation—The Tammany Twentieth—Inside View of the Wigwag—The Sheriff Imbroglio—A Council of War—The Happy Family—McKean, McKean, Democratic Union Organizations.

AN OUTLINE OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

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